



CAPITOL COMMENTS

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Dear Friend,

There's no time like the present to prepare for next year's 86th Legislative Session! The committees on which I serve, Transportation and Appropriations, met this past month for back to back hearings to discuss interim charges. My office is currently conducting meetings with the heads of government in the cities in House District 65. Perhaps most importantly, we are beginning to evaluate legislation to possibly file in the next session. If you as a constituent of House District 65 have a bill idea for next session, I am always open to hearing them. Each note, letter, email, fax, phone call, or social media private message from a constituent gets a well-researched and honest response, no matter the issue. It is an honor to serve you in this way.

Since last month's newsletter, my office has replied to 42 individual legislative correspondences, not including casework. We are also preparing congratulatory letters to over 2,000 graduating high school seniors in the district! Read on for more news about the goings-on in your state government as well as in our district.

As always, you can keep in touch by visiting my House website, Facebook page, or Twitter page. Thank you, and God bless.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron".

Ron Simmons
State Representative
House District 65

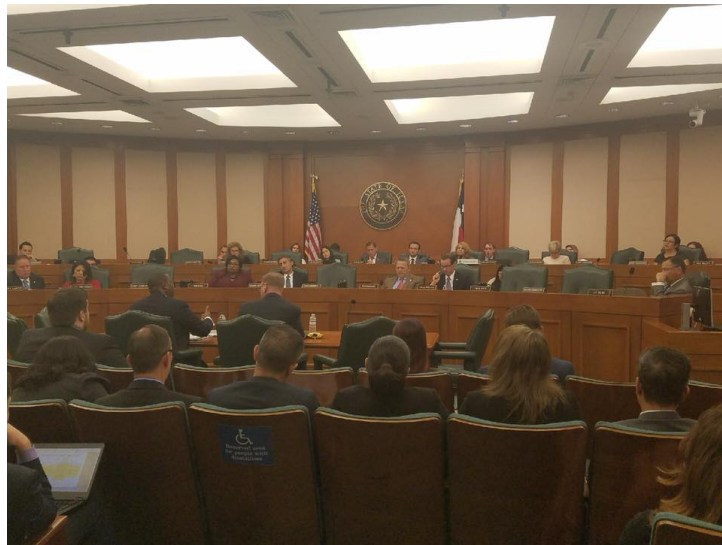
CAPITOL NEWS

Committee Hearings

I was in Austin this Month to meet with the House Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations. The Transportation Committee to study our state's ability to deliver highway construction projects that reduce congestion and improve mobility and to discuss the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) options and limitations related to contracting. We also considered the impacts that energy exploration and production have on our state and county roads and continued discussions with toll authorities about the transparency of their operations and responsiveness to drivers. Ensuring TxDOT has efficient planning tools in preparing for the future transportation needs of our state is one of my top priorities. I look forward to continuing my work on the Transportation Committee as an advocate for reducing congestion in our state's urban areas.



The Committee on Appropriations met to discuss various aspects of our state's budget, including our state's cybersecurity practices, Texas' ongoing efforts to secure the Texas-Mexico border, and our state agencies' contracting practices. Additionally, we considered various methods by which Texas could generate more investment income using a portion of the money in our Economic Stabilization Fund. I am proud to report that our Department of Public Safety continues to do an excellent job working with federal and local law enforcement to secure our borders and that Texas cybersecurity practices are bar-none some of the best in the country. I am excited to continue working with my fellow members of the committee to ensure that spending growth in Texas remains conservative and that our state continues to be responsible stewards of the taxpayer's money.

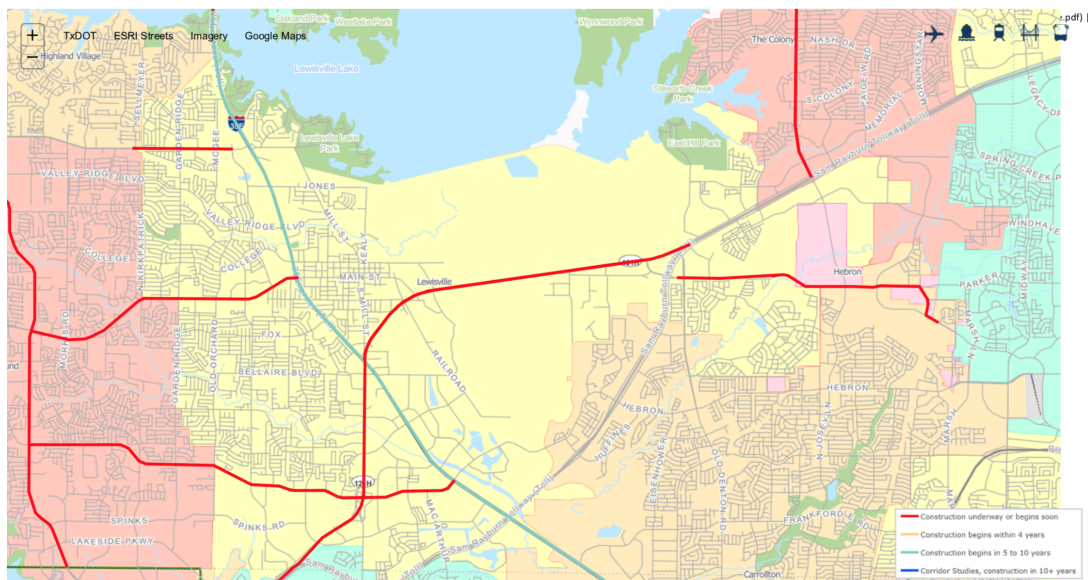


TxDOT Project Tracker

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently updated the Department's project tracker, which allows you monitor the state's transportation projects, both ongoing and planned. In the project tracker, you can search for projects by city name, county name, TxDOT district name, highway number, project ID, as well as your state senate, house, and congressional district. Each search query contains summary information on the phase of construction, the number of projects in the search parameter, as well as the estimated cost of those projects.

The project tracker allows you to research the more than 10,000 projects that are both planned and ongoing throughout Texas. You can research an individual project you are interested in, the total number of projects in a region, or across our entire state! The project tracker allows citizens to stay up-to-date on transportation planning efforts so that they may be informed when planning for transportation or business needs, know how tax dollars are being invested, and know who to best contact when issues arise on a specific project. I encourage you to check it out at www.txdot.gov/pt.

Below is a snapshot of HD 65 and surrounding areas with projects underway and those that are about to begin soon.



Border Security

I am thankful to President Trump for committing federal resources to ensure the Texas-Mexico Border is safe and secure. I have been proud to support our state's efforts to funding law enforcement

efforts to secure our state's border and will continue to fight for those efforts, however, these responsibilities truly are those of the federal government. For too long, the federal government has shirked its duty to ensure the safety of its citizens through a secure border. I am hopeful that President Trump's recent authorization of up to 4,000 National Guardsmen to support the border mission is a sign of a true shift in the federal policy that has cost our state tremendously. Rest assured, I will continue to monitor these efforts with other state and federal leaders to ensure that the border mission continues to move in a positive direction.



I had the privilege of touring our border with the Texas Department of Public Safety when I served as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety in 2013.

Health & Human Services Commission

Over the past few months, our State's Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has faced increased scrutiny for how it manages multi-million dollar contracts on behalf of the taxpayers of Texas. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been proud to author and sponsor legislation to ensure that our state agencies follow strict and clear contracting guidelines so that taxpayers can be assured their money is being spent efficiently and appropriately. This week, the Commissioner of HHSC, Charles Smith, announced his intent to retire from the agency at the end of the month. Former State Senator Tommy Williams will begin leading HHSC as interim director beginning in June. I applaud Governor Greg Abbott and his staff on taking a strong leadership role to correct the operations at HHSC by putting effective leadership in place. I look forward to continuing work with Governor Abbott and my fellow legislators to ensure our State's healthcare dollars are spent efficiently to provide the best medical care to Texans.



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

DISTRICT NEWS

Congratulations to Local Election Winners

Municipal elections were held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 for several local races on city council and school board. The following is a list of the new or re-elected members:

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD

Carrollton Police Department Restarts Junior Police Academy

After a nearly five-year hiatus, the Carrollton Police Department is bringing back its Junior Police Academy. The academy is a week-long summer camp that teaches students the basics of law enforcement through hands-on activities and real-life scenarios. The junior police

Trustee 1: Sally Derrick
Trustee 2: John Matthews

Lewisville ISD

Place 1: Kronda Thimesch
Place 2: Allison Lassahn

Carrollton

City Council Place 1: Steve Babick
City Council Place 3: Pat Cochran
City Council Place 5: Glen Blancset
City Council Place 7: John Sutter

Lewisville

Mayor: Rudy Durham
City Council Place 2: R. Neil Ferguson

Highland Village

Mayor: Charlotte Wilcox
City Council Place 2: Jon Kixmiller
City Council Place 4: Barbara Fleming
City Council Place 6: Robert Fiester

Congratulations to all who won, and thank you for your service to our community. Public service is a sacrifice and a noble calling.



Memorial Ride Pays Tribute to Fallen Law Enforcement Officers

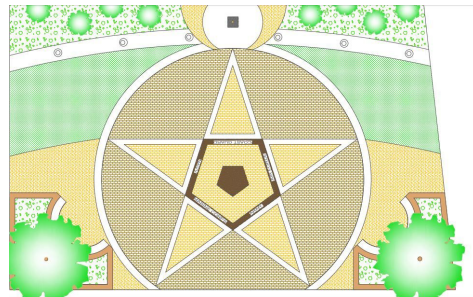
In 2017, there were 16 Texas police officers who were killed in the line of duty. While those officers' journey is over, a group of first responders and civilians will compete their journey for them. The 4th Annual Texas Peace Officers Memorial Ride will begin May 4. The two-day ride honors all fallen Texas peace officers and their families. The proceeds from the ride are distributed equally to the three Texas C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors) chapters. The Texas Peace Officers Memorial Ride covers 145 miles from Fort Worth to Dallas for a memorial ceremony. Participants will then ride to Waxahachie, where buses will take them to Temple and then ride to Austin. The ride will conclude with the Texas Peace Officers candle light vigil ceremony. Once riders make their way to the finish line in Austin, they give their honor band to the family of the fallen officers. Once riders make their way to the finish line in Austin, they give their honor band to the family of the fallen officers.

academy runs for seven weeks, and students can choose which week they would like to participate in. Each week contains the same curriculum. Students will get hands-on experience with using speed radars, crime scenes, building searches and more. Officers from the K9 and SWAT teams will also teach about their operations. Traffic stops are also included in the curriculum and allows students to engage in real-life situations.



Carrollton Moving Forward with Veteran's Memorial

A veteran's memorial center has been in the works for months now. The Carrollton Parks and Recreation Board has been working with the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to design the memorial and to find a suitable location to place it. At a December council meeting, council members expressed favor for a patch of land between the senior center and the library and directed staff to go pursue a memorial at that location. The memorial is planned to have six flags – one American and the other five representing military branches. There have also been discussions about putting some type of feature in the middle of the star, depending on how much funding is available. The memorial is also expected to be illuminated with LED lights.



Lewisville Hosts Annual "Keeping Tradition Alive" Event

Firefighters from all over the world come to Lewisville on Friday, May 11 and receive instruction on honor corps activities. Some of the most talented bag pipers and drum corps participants attend a conference at the Lewisville Convention Center, then move downtown for a free concert at 7:00 PM for the public.



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